

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Appropriations Committee
U.S House of Representatives
H-149, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Appropriations Committee
U.S House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young:

We respectfully request your support to increase funding for kidney cancer research and specifically ask that you provide \$15 million within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for this purpose in the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill.

In 2008, kidney cancer led to an estimated 13,010 deaths and 54,390 new diagnoses, making it the eighth most common cancer in the United States. The rate of people developing kidney cancer has been increasing for the last 65 years, and, according to the National Cancer Institute, it has the fourth highest rising incidence rate of cancers among women and the sixth highest among men. As of January 1, 2005, in the United States there were approximately 253,502 men and women who had a history of kidney cancer - 148,837 men and 104,665 women.

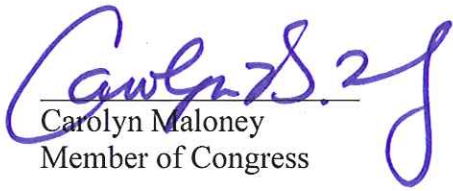
Mortality rates for kidney cancer patients are disturbingly high due to the absence of screening techniques to provide early diagnosis coupled with the limited treatments that are currently available. There is only one FDA-approved drug for metastatic kidney cancer that has shown any durable response, and the cure rate is less than 10%. Unlike other types of cancer, no therapy currently exists to prevent the future recurrence of kidney cancer once patients are in remission. We hope you will consider our request to invest in diagnostic tests and new treatment options for those who suffer from this disease.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that approximately \$1.9 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. It deserves dedicated research funding supported by the Department of Defense Appropriations bill. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to the day when real hope will exist for the tens of thousands of Americans who suffer from this disease.

Sincerely,


Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

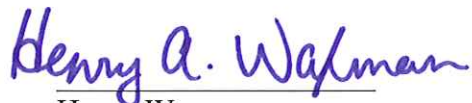

Peter T. King
Member of Congress


Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

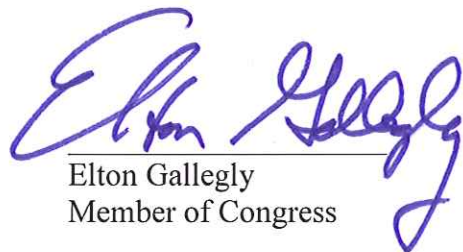

Joe Sestak
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
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